

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T MOSCOW 2661

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PARM, US, UR
SUBJ: TTBT/PNE NEGOTIATIONS: PLENARY FEBRUARY 20
TTBT/PNE DELEGATION MESSAGE NO. 73

1. SUMMARY. DISCUSSION COVERED US TELLING SOVIETS CHARACTERISTICS OF RADIO LINK ASSOCIATED WITH LOCAL SEISMIC NETWORK, ROLE OF LOCAL SEISMIC NETWORK AFTER EXPLOSION, AND US PROPOSAL FOR RANDOM SELECTION OF RECORDING UNITS FOR RETENTION BY HOST AFTER EXPLOSION. END SUMMARY.

2. BUCHHEIM ASKED SOVIET WHEN RODIONOV WOULD MAKE STATEMENT ON SOVIET SEISMIC NETWORK. RODIONOV REPLIED HE DEFINITELY NOT PREPARED NOW, AND WOULD NOT BE BEFORE AT LEAST ONE WEEK.

3. SAFRONOV ASKED US TO GIVE TECHNICAL BASIS FOR WANTING LOCAL SEISMIC NETWORK ABOVE 300 KILOTONS. SAID HE HAD GIVEN BASIS EARLIER THAT JUSTIFIED 1 MEGATON BUT COULD NOT RECITE IT AGAIN WITHOUT REVIEWING DOCUMENTS. AGREED THAT SAFRONOV WOULD TELL HIS STORY AND THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD DISCUSS ISSUE AT MEETING FEB 24. SAFRONOV NOT AVAILABLE FEB 23, BECAUSE OF ARMY HOLIDAY.

4. US PRESENTED FREQUENCY AND POWER CHARACTERISTICS OF RADIO LINK FOR SEISMIC NETWORK (SEPTEL). SOVIETS
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PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH DIRECTIONAL CHARATERISTICS

OF ANTENNAE. SOVIETS ASKED TO BE PROVIDED RADIATION PATTERNS FOR ALL ANTENNAE. SOVIETS SAID PURPOSE OF SUCH KNOWLEDGE IS TO ELIMINATE CONCERN REGARDING SOURCES OF INTERFERENCE AND RECEIVING OF INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED BY VERIFYING SIDE. US AGREED TO ASK FOR SUCH INFORMATION AND ASKED THAT RODIONOV INCLUDE SIMILAR INFORMATION IN HIS PRESENTATION. PLEASE ADVISE.

5. RODIONOV ASKED WHY US WANTED SEISMIC NET TO OPERATE 15 DAYS POST-EXPLOSION. US EXPLAINED PURPOSE RELATED TO DETECTING CAVITY COLLAPSE OF UNANNOUNCED COLLATERAL EXPLOSION. RODIONOV SUGGESTED USING ONLY 3 REMOTE SEISMIC STATIONS POST-EXPLOSION AND USE SURFACE CABLES FOR DATA TRANSMISSION IN PLACE OF RADIO. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION RODIONOV SAID SOVIET SYSTEM, AS RULE, HAD INDEPENDENT RECORDING AT EACH REMOTE STATION WHICH TURNED ON AND OFF BY RADIO. SAFRONOV SAID RODIONOV QUESTIONS ARE PART OF HIS PREPARATION HIS FORTHCOMING STATEMENT.

6. US PRESENTED PROPOSAL FOR PROVIDING HOST ONE RECORDING COMPONENT FROM SLIFER AND ONE FROM SEISMIC BASE STATION POST-EXPLOSION ON BASIS OF CHANCE. SOVIETS SEEMED SURPRISED BY AND APPREARED INTERESTED IN PROPOSAL AND SAID THEY WOULD STUDY IT. BOCHAROV ASKED WHO GETS TRAILERS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT. US REPLIED THAT VERIFYING SIDE WOULD REMOVE EVERYTHING EXCEPT COMPONENTS FOR DATA RECORDING. ONLY CLEAR DISSENT TO PROPOSAL CAME FROM RODIONOV WHO SAID SOVIETS INSIST HOST MUST RETAIN ALL RECORDING EQUIPMENT FOR 30 DAYS.

7. IN SIDE CONVERSATION AFTER MEETING RODIONOV REPEATEDLY MADE POINT THAT PROBLEMS HE ENVISAGED WITH US PROPOSAL PARA 6 ABOVE WAS "PSYCHOLOGICAL". HE SAID HE PERSONALLY HAD NO PROBLEM WITH PROPOSAL, BUT "OTHER PEOPLE WHO DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE PROBABILITY ARGUMENT" WOULD NEVER ACCEPT BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED ALL REPEAT ALL EQUIPMENT USED TO MAKE RECORDING DURING EXPLOSION MUST BE EXAMINED POST-EXPLOSION BY HOST. NORDYKE RESPONDED THAT US CONCERNS REGARDING RECORDING EQUIPMENT WERE SIMILAR TO SOVIET CONCERNS. US PROPOSED -- AND PREPARED -- TO SHARE RISK EVENHANDEDLY

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THROUGH CHANCE PROCESS, BUT COULD NOT ACCEPT UNEQUAL SHARE OF RISK. COMMENT: US EMPHASIZED DURING MEETING WE PREPARED SHARE, BUT NOT ACCEPT UNEQUAL RISK. END COMMENT.

8. DELEGATION RECOMMENDS DISCONTINUANCE OF USE OF LABEL "RUSSIAN ROULETTE" FOR EQUIPMENT CHOICE PROCEDURE. EXPRESSION WILL GET OUT IN PUBLIC, HAS NEGATIVE SHADING, AND COULD BE USED BY ANYONE WHO MAY VIEW CHOICE PROCEDURE

AS TOO RISKY TO UNDERCUT IT. LOSING AT RUSSIAN ROULETTE
REGARDLESS OF ODDS, IS NOT GOOD OUTCOME.

9. REFERENCE STATE 41799 PARA 4. YOUR ASSUMPTION IS
CORRECT.
STOESSEL

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NNN

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